THE WEEKLY COMMERCIAL.

TERMS OF THE WEEKLY.

THE ECLIPSE AND ITS LESSONS.

Sermon Preached in the First Methodist Church, Corner Seventh and Pittsburgh, Sunday Morning, August 8, 1869, by Alexander Clark, D.D.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. VI.—NO. 11. WEEKLY EDITION. AUGUST 14, 1869.

REPUBLICAN COUNTY COMMITTEE.

Meeting on Saturday—Report of Committee on Registration, Etc.

The Union Republican Executive Committee met on Saturday, at eleven o'clock, in the Duquesne Court room, and was called to order by the Chairman, W. S. Furniss, Esq.

There was a large attendance, and a considerable number of outside members was present.

Minutes of the previous day.

E. F. Ewing, Esq., Chairman of the Committee on Registration, submitted the following report, which was accepted and adopted:

The Committee on Registration appointed by the Republican Executive Committee of Allegheny county, respectfully beg leave to report the following synopsis or digest of the Registration Law, approved April 27, 1869, which, in connection with the Constitution, is the present and only source of complete information upon which to base our action in the registration of voters in this county. Briefly, this law provides for the appointment of a Board of Registry in every city, borough, township and district of the county, and prescribes the various things necessary to be done under the provisions of an act which will be applicable to the State at large, including the duties to be performed by the County Commissioners, Election officers, &c.

Board—Election Assessors.

Section 1, of the first section act, sets forth the manner in which the Judges of the Courts of Quarter Sessions, within the several counties of this Commonwealth, shall appoint three persons, residents of the county, to be known as the Board of Registry for such county, and provides that no person shall be eligible to appointment as a member of said Board who shall hold any office or appointment of profit or trust under the United States or this State, or any city, borough or township therein, or be a candidate for any office to be filled at the election next succeeding his appointment. Provides that the Board shall meet on the first Monday of June in each year, and be organized.

Sec. 2. Provides that the terms of the members of said Board shall be two years, and that vacancies occurring by death, resignation or otherwise shall be filled by the Court of Quarter Sessions.

Sec. 3. Provides that the Board shall appoint a clerk, and fix the amount of his compensation, which, together with the compensation of the members of the Board, shall be paid by the County Commissioners, on the certificate of the Board.

Sec. 4. Provides that the Board shall meet at the Court House, or such other place as the Commissioners of the county may provide, on the first Monday of June, and continue in session from day to day, Sundays excepted, for the purpose of the registry of voters, and for no other purpose.

Sec. 5. Provides that the Board shall appoint an assessor for each election district in the county, who shall be a resident of the district for which he is appointed, and shall hold his office for two years, unless sooner removed by the Court of Quarter Sessions for cause. Provides that the assessor shall be sworn or affirmed to perform the duties of his office faithfully and impartially, and to support the Constitution of the United States and of this State, and that a certificate of such oath or affirmation shall be filed with the Board.

Sec. 6. Provides that the assessor shall have power to administer oaths or affirmations to persons applying to be registered, touching their qualifications as voters, and to examine them and other witnesses touching the same, and that he shall keep a record of the names of persons registered by him, which shall be open to public inspection during the hours of registration.

Sec. 7. Provides that the assessor shall attend at his office on the first Monday of June, and on the second Monday next preceding each election, from nine o'clock A. M. until nine o'clock P. M., for the purpose of registering the names of persons entitled to be registered by him, which shall not be done elsewhere or at any other time.

Sec. 8. Provides that the assessor shall have authority to appoint one person to assist him in the registry of voters, who shall be sworn or affirmed to perform his duties faithfully, and to support the Constitution of the United States and of this State.

Sec. 9. Provides that the Board shall appoint a time and place for the meeting of the assessors of each district, and shall furnish them with the necessary election blanks.

Sec. 10. Provides that the Board shall have power to compel the attendance of all persons whose names are not found on the assessment or registration list, by subpœna issued by them by their County Commissioners, unless such persons shall show reasonable cause for their absence, and to punish for contempt in the same manner as courts of record are empowered to do in such cases.

Sec. 11. Provides that on the day of the election the Board shall attend at the place where the election is held, and if any person offering to vote is not found upon the proper assessment or registration list, he shall be entitled to vote upon making and subscribing the proper affidavit, and proving such election, such affidavit to be made before the Board, or before one of its members, and proof to be made by the affidavits of two citizens of good standing and residence in the district, who shall be sworn or affirmed by him. Which affidavit shall be filed with the Board, and the name of such person entered on the list.

Sec. 12. Provides that in case a written or printed affidavit to be taken and subscribed by the person to vote, stating in the case to be known as a contested election, that he is a citizen of the United States, and has been for one month next preceding the election a resident of the Commonwealth and of the district in which he offers to vote, and that he did not remove into the district for the purpose of voting at such election, and that he has not paid or promised to pay, or contributed anything to be paid or used, directly or indirectly, by himself or any other person, to help to pay the expenses of any election, or to influence any person to vote or refrain from voting at such election, and that he has not made any bet or wager upon the result thereof, and that he is a qualified voter of the district, and has resided therein for the time required by this act, and that he has not voted at this election, and that he is duly registered, and that his name is on the list of voters of the district, or that he has been improperly stricken therefrom, and that he is entitled to vote, and proof of the facts stated in such affidavit be made by the affidavits of two citizens of good standing and residence in the district, who shall be sworn or affirmed by the Board, and their affidavits filed with the Board, and the name of such person entered on the list.

Sec. 13. Provides that the Board shall attend at the office of the County Commissioners on the second Monday next preceding each election, from nine o'clock A. M. until nine o'clock P. M., for the purpose of correcting the list of voters, and for no other purpose, and that no name shall be added to the list of voters except in the manner provided by this act.

Sec. 14. Provides that the Board shall, on the first Monday of June in each year, and on the second Monday next preceding each election, make out a fair copy of the list of voters, and deliver the same to the Commissioners of the county, and that the Commissioners shall cause the same to be printed in such number of copies as they may deem sufficient, and shall furnish the Board with a sufficient number of copies for the use of the election officers.

Sec. 15. Provides that the Board shall receive from the Commissioners of the county a certified copy of the list of voters, and shall, on the second Monday next preceding each election, attend at the office of the Commissioners, and compare the printed list with the certified copy, and correct the same, and shall then certify the printed list to be correct, and deliver the same to the Commissioners, who shall furnish the same to the election officers.

Sec. 16. Provides that the Board shall, on the second Monday next preceding each election, attend at the office of the Commissioners, and receive from them the list of voters, and shall then and there, in the presence of the Commissioners, compare the list with the certified copy, and correct the same, and shall then certify the list to be correct, and deliver the same to the Commissioners, who shall furnish the same to the election officers.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1869.

THE REMOVAL OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

And why not? The West—or what is a few years will be the controlling centre of it and of the West all the great character issue of our different geographical and political sections are in process of fusion into the Coming Yankee, we do not see that the claim is extravagant or unpalatable or vain. The West is ambitious, reckless in the pursuit of great objects, and swelling with the consciousness that within her border lies the future seat of empire on this continent. The West appreciates the outline in option, but long ago stowed the word impossible from her dictionary. Are not these the qualities essential—or do they not guarantee the success of the undertaking? The power we will be there, and who dare venture a doubt that it will be used? Let such a sceptic take a tour of observation towards the setting sun, and through the press from the great men in which the West is so tremendously prolific, and in the tone of public opinion, he will hear on every hand, in answer to any pet theories of national development, the invariable response—wait until the census of Seventy or Eighty. That will settle, and only in one way, who is to rule the land. It is not exactly uttered as a threat, but as rather the assertion of a legitimate power.

We do not, therefore, look upon the call for a Convention at St. Louis, on the 6th of October, to consider the ways and means for the removal of the National Capital to the Mississippi Valley, as more idle braggadocio. It is much more likely to prove to be the first of a series of appeals to practical sentiment and sectional prejudice, that will be followed at the proper time by the entire machinery of agitation, all looking to the dismantling of the city of magnificent distances and making it a magnificent ruin.

It will be a costly operation, but that goes for nothing now that we are accustomed to imposing figures in financial exhibits. The patriotic impulses of our unselfish natures may whisper something of economy for Washington and its chosen site on the banks of the Potomac, but the answer is ready that Washington knew not the West, and never dreamed of its power. Beside that, in that day, did not the capital discussion eventuate in locating it in what was then the centre of population—a swamp, to be sure, but now the most disagreeable city for the purposes of brief visit or permanent residence in the Union? The difficulty in securing Congressional appropriations illustrates this.

The point in the whole controversy, however, is that the West will have the power, and whether it chooses to regard the removal as a mammoth real estate speculation or in the light of a national debt and a national blessing, it will very probably lose the effect whenever it makes up its mind. The whole country is dissatisfied with Washington, and the advocates of a change need only wait and the great dome on Capitol Hill will follow the course of empire.

In all the new States, as population has increased, the capital has been removed from its first location in the centre of population, to as near the geographical centre of the State as was practicable. This was the case in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and Iowa, and it shows the settled policy of the public mind on this capital question in the great valley. What has been done singly, by the States, it will be argued, can be done as easily on a larger scale by a union of States.

The millions that have been disbursed in Washington, in piling up marble and brick, count as nothing in comparison with what will be expended on capitol and department extensions during the next twenty years. An Executive Mansion befitting the grandeur and dignity of the nation will probably be authorized at the next session of Congress, and a few millions will be called for to construct suitable buildings for the State, Navy and War Departments in place of the present humble town contortion. Of course the West wants a finger in this pie.

But where is the site? That comes up as the most important question of the removal having been determined on. St. Louis evidently thinks her claims good, and is most active in promoting the coming convention, not certainly out of patriotism. Cincinnati has some pretensions. Chicago's claims are unlimited, while Omaha will not be ignored. Cheyenne, out on the Pacific road, thinks all these places too far to the eastward, and Corinne, in Utah, in lieu her time, the matrimonial centre of that section, it is presumed, is being coalesced to Congressional morality. Michigan is canvasing her capital from Detroit, located it on a school section, sold out the land for more than enough to build a capitol, and the flourishing little city of Lansing has sprung up as a consequence. Pursuing the same policy Uncle Sam might employ a competent corps of engineers to hunt up the geographical centre of the Union—striking a balance between the northernmost tip of Maine and the Florida cypress—and then inveigle the political centre into the geographical centre. The real estate operation this would create a magnificent opening, and a judicious sale of lots might do something towards paying the expenses of the archives and old lumber from Washington. Of course St. Louis will meet at this idea, but it can be mollified by precisely the same logic as that upon which she bases her claim. Let the Convention be held by all means.

THE CAUSE OF MR. GLADSTONE'S DEFEAT.

We have given Mr. Gladstone credit very generally, on this side of the water, with having achieved a signal victory over the House of Lords on the Irish church bill, but the exact truth of the compromise between the House of Commons and the Lords, as we get it by steamer, hardly bears out the idea that the Premier came out of the contest with all the honors. In fact the victory seems to be one of very meager proportions. The preamble of the bill, upon which the most contingent part of the controverting arose, is in the following language as it passed both Houses:

> Whereas it is expedient that the temporalities of the Church of Ireland should cease, determine and be applied to purposes connected with the Church of Ireland, and to other purposes relating to Ireland, as hereinafter mentioned; and whereas it is expedient that the property of the Church of Ireland should be vested in the Commissioners of Church Temporalities in Ireland, for the purposes aforesaid, subject to the rights of the Church of Ireland and of the members thereof, and to the rights of the Regium Donum and Maynooth College, and of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and of the Presbyterian ministers, and of the Roman Catholic Archbishops, Bishops and Clergymen, and of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, and of the Governors and Teachers of Royal Schools in Ireland, and of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, and of the Governors of the Hibernian Society, and of the Governors of the Irish Society, and of the Governors of the Foundling Hospital, Dublin, and of the Governors of the Hospital for Incurables, Dublin, and of the Governors of the Hospital for Poor Lying-in Women, Dublin, and of the Governors of the Hospital for Poor Children, Dublin, and of the Governors of the Hospital for Poor Old Men, Dublin, and of the Governors of the Hospital for Poor Old Women, Dublin, and of the Governors of the Hospital for Poor Children, Dublin, and of the Governors of the Hospital for Poor Old Men and

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THE CAMPAIGN IN BEAVER.

Annual Republican County Meeting.

Address of Hon. T. J. Bigham, of Pittsburgh, to the Packer in Convention, in Democratic Conventions, and Having the War-The Pennsylvania Democracy Changeable with the Rebellion.

The Republicans of Beaver county held their annual county meeting at Bowling on Monday, for the purpose of making nominations, and under the auspices the campaign in that county. The meeting was large in numbers and very enthusiastic. A brief sketch in regard to the appointment of the United States Assessor for that district will be found below. The address of the speaker, however, pledged themselves to a support of the present Government and Gens. Williams, and Barlow county will do her full share towards their election. Among other speakers was Hon. E. J. Ingham, of Allegheny, who made an able speech of an hour and a half's duration, of which we have only room for the following portion in the Democratic candidate for governor:

John Bigham, the Democratic candidate for Governor, has never made a speech, so far as we can learn, for pressure, in an annual degree, that "hereby comes quiet produces," and which is so much to be regretted. We have, therefore, to gather his views from his letter of acceptance, and his surroundings. He was a member of the State Legislature nearly thirty years ago, as the scene of that period are no longer living remain, I suppose of the record of his service at Harrisburg. He has been a candidate for an election of nearly all State and National Democratic conventions, and in that capacity has come in contact with nearly enough in that the majority of any of them.

SPEECH AND RECORD WANTED.

He was a member of Congress during the administrations of Franklin Pierce, selling, and James B. Buchanan, 1853 to 1857. So much, he voted on all questions of importance during the period of the Missouri Compromise, and the legislation of that period forgotten to the history now Kansas, Nebraska and the Pacific roads. Subsequently and the Pacific roads, Democratic platforms for twenty years past. The Democracy have now and once again declared the Virginia and Kentucky resolutions of 1798 to be a part of their political creed. Mr. Bigham has been a delegate to every Democratic National Convention since 1852, and has participated in the framing of all the platforms adopted by them. Surely, then, we have a right to expect from him some declaration of his views on the questions, however, which have arisen since the Democratic party was last entrusted with the administration of the General Government. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention which met in Cincinnati in 1856, and assisted in the nomination of James Buchanan for President, and Breckinridge for Vice President, and surely, if on no other occasion, he has expressed himself on the questions that have arisen since the Democratic party was last in power. Has he ever declared himself in favor of the doctrine which declared that four years of slavery was a failure, and demanded a peaceful separation? What he says on the subject now is of little importance, for it is not the time to make up a record. It is not the time to make up a record, for the time for the appointment of delegates to New York, and the time for the election of delegates to the Democratic National Convention, which is to meet at Chicago, and which is to nominate candidates for President and Vice President, is still distant. Mr. Bigham has been a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1856, and he has been a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1860, and he has been a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1864, and he has been a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1868, and he has been a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1869, and he has been a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1870, and he has been a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in

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AN IMPORTANT CONFESSION.

The contest for the Republican legislative nominations in Lancaster county is becoming very spiritual. Among the candidates for the senatorial nomination are Isaac M. Strawbridge and Andrew Ahrendtsen, both former members of the lower house. These gentlemen are waging a bitter personal fight through the newspapers and among their friends, and between them certain unwholesome truths are brought to light. For instance, Mr. Ahrendtsen complains in behalf of A. C. Hayes, the "quaker and fuller," who drew pay without performing any service. It appears that Hayes was Strawbridge's "man" in the Legislature of 1867, and that when he (Ahrendtsen) was elected to the Legislature of 1868, Strawbridge asked him to take care of Hayes. This he at first refused, but afterwards agreed to do. When the Legislature met Mr. Ahrendtsen was one of the eight reformatory members who refused to support the caucus nominee for Speaker, and by this he lost his claim upon that officer and those who acted with him. Hayes was thrown overboard, and Strawbridge, the Governor elect, Hartranft, and their entire organization with the "Speaker and State Treasurer" at their head should be taken care of. The first relation have he offered a confession to make. Hayes as assistant clerk, which was followed by the Philadelphia members, and here his affidavits in behalf of Hayes ended.

To this end, A. C. Hayes replies under oath in behalf of the treasurer. The early discrepancy in the two statements is that Hayes charges that Ahrendtsen was promised by Speaker Dimm and others a place and fuller position, and that Ahrendtsen refused to take it, insisting on a clerkship. Hayes says he was off and on at Harrisburg for a few days each week for five weeks, only when he became disgusted and went home. He did not return until near the close of the session. Receiving a telegram dated April 15, 1868, confirm a day or two of adjournment from Mr. Ahrendtsen, Mr. Hayes went to the State Capitol when the former told him he could get his warrant by calling at the Clerk's desk, "when," to use the words of Hayes, "one of the clerks filled out my papers, and the Chief Clerk and Speaker signed them. *I then proceeded to the Treasurer's office and drew $225, as pay and mileage for going and coming.*"

Here is an open confession, sworn to before an Alderman of Lancaster, that a pauper and fuller drew from the State Treasury $225 without performing service or giving equivalent therefor.

When the Conservatives raised the question of retrenchment and reform in legislative affairs, we were charged with treason to the Republican party, and even with factionalism although when we asserted that men received pay who were not at Harrisburg and performed no service. But Mr. Hayes is our proof that we were right. How many others there are who received pay in the in the same way, and were will, sooner or later, make confession, as Mr. Hayes has done, depends on the consciences of the guilty participants in the fraud.

THE RELATIVE DISCOVERIES OF THE AGE.

The progress of scientific knowledge, and the certainty with which it heralds unusual movements in the heavenly bodies, seems to us to be the great lesson of the wonderful phenomenon of Saturday, because it is the one that enforces our duty to the zealous students and the great seats of learning that have dispelled the superstition and ignorance of other days in regard to such extraordinary occurrences. The fact that human intelligence, combined with the experience of ages, has so far conquered the mysteries of the celestial worlds, that they are modified to an with a nicety accuracy that reaches upon the function of a second, as in the case of the late eclipse, is more wonderful than the eclipse itself. That follows the workings of immutable law and is grandeur and sublimity is inconceivably excelled every day, by the rising and going down of the sun, and the movements of other heavenly bodies with which we are made familiar from infancy. In early times, before the learning and experience of man had evolved the fixed rules that govern the universe, eclipses came on the world by surprise; they were regarded as the tryings of an evil principle and superstitious ignorance filled the people with fear. The Greeks and the Romans ended their superstitious fears by appeals to their "Spectre and State Treasurer," when forces should be taken care of." By time science